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REPORT NO.

## CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 23 December 1952

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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I. The organization of the VP is still in a state of flux, and therefore only the most essential facts can be pointed out here.

## II. Command Structure and Main Branches of the Volkspolizei.

1. Nominally, the VP is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior, except for the border police which was assigned to the Ministry of State Security in May 1952. Actually, however, the military units of the VP have always been controlled by the SCC through the system of the so-called Sovietniks, i.e. Soviet officers who wear police uniforms and who have been attached to all VP headquarters and units. At present, the following headquarters of the VP exist:
2. Hauptverwaltung der Deutschen Volkspolizei (Main Administration of German Volkspolizei) (HVDVP).  
The HVDVP is headed by VP Generalinspekteur Karl Maron. It is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and includes the regular and transportation police. With the dissolution of the Laender and the formation of the so-called Verwaltungsbezirke (administrative districts) and the recent transfer of the younger age classes to the Kasernierte VP units, it is expected that the strength of the HVDVP will decrease. At present, there are about 57,000 men, including about 6,000 transportation police in the HVDVP.

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3. Hauptverwaltung der Deutschen Grenzpolizei (Main Administration of the German Border Police) (HVDGP).  
The HVDGP is headed by VP Generalinspekteur (Lieutenant General) Hermann Barthmann. In May 1952, the border police was transferred from the control of the HVDVP and assigned to the Ministry of State Security. The border police numbers about 18,000 men.
4. Hauptverwaltung Kasernierte Volkspolizei (Main Administration of Kasernierte Volkspolizei) (HVKVP).  
The HVKVP is headed by VP Generalinspekteur (Lieutenant General) Karl Heinz Hoffmann. Prior to July 1952, this headquarters for KVP units was known as Hauptverwaltung fuer Ausbildung (Main Administration for Training) (HVA). Since January 1952, the strength of these units has increased from approximately 54,000 men to 100,000 to 110,000 men.
5. Hauptverwaltung Seepolizei (Main Administration of Sea Police) (HVS).  
The HVS is headed by VP Generalinspekteur (Vice Admiral) Waldemar Verner. The personnel of the sea police has increased from about 2,500 men in late May 1951 to an estimated 5,000 men in November 1952.
6. Hauptverwaltung Luftpolizei (Main Administration of Air Police) (HVL).  
The HVL is headed by VP Generalinspekteur (Lieutenant General) Heinz Kessler. This VP headquarters has been in existence since 1951 as a Hauptabteilung z.b.V. (main department for special assignments) within the HVA. However, it did not make its official appearance before the summer of 1952. About this time, the organization of VP air units was started. Most of the personnel of these units came from the KVP. This latest branch of the VPs has about 5,000 men, most of whom were assigned to the first VP air division. Pilot training on about 50 aircraft, which were delivered by the Soviets, has been under way since a month. It is undetermined, whether flying personnel is also being trained in the U.S.S.R. or in other satellite countries. However, this is believed to be a possibility.
7. The official organizational set-up of the VP, whereby all its command headquarters are nominally subordinated to the Ministry of the Interior, except for the border police, has been used for several months to camouflage the growth of the various military branches of the VP into a national army. A nucleus for the Ministry of National Forces was formed within the Ministry of Interior in June 1952. This administrative agency has grown to a strength of about 1,200 men. It is believed that the organizational preparation has progressed to the point that only a formal administrative act is required in order to establish the HVKVP, HVS and HVL as army high command, naval high command and air force high command respectively and to assign them to the Ministry of National Forces. It is not yet clear whether the border police will also be transferred from the Ministry of State Security to the Ministry of National Forces. The appointment of Lt. Gen. Vincenz Mueller, former CG, XII Corps (East) German Wehrmacht, and of the chiefs of the military branches of the VP as deputy ministers of the Ministry of the Interior indicates the trend of future developments. Army General S.M. Shtemenko, previously chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Army, who may possibly succeed General V.I. Chuikov, and other high-ranking Soviet officers have been in East Germany since summer 1952. These officers, and especially S.M. Shtemenko will bring their influence to bear upon the organization of the national army from the VP and will attempt to ensure that this latest satellite army is a reliable instrument of Moscow.

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III. Kasernierte Volkspolizei.

9. Of the three branches of the national armed forces, the KVP, the future army of East Germany, has made the greatest progress regarding organization, personnel strength and armament. In comparison with the KVP, the sea police and the VP air force are still of minor importance.

Development.

9. In December 1950, 45 so-called Volkspolizei Dienststellen (VPDs) were organized from the 39 Volkspolizei Bereitschaften (VBEs) of specific branches of service and 17 VP schools which had been activated in 1949. The bulk of this force consisted of 24 regiment-like combined-arms units which averaged 1,700 men each. The remaining VPDs were schools for the training of officers, service schools or supply units. This reorganization was to facilitate the transition from the previous system of training conducted at an individual level to training at the higher level of combined-arms. The 24 regiment-like VPDs were uniformly organized. They consisted of infantry, artillery, reconnaissance, signal, engineer, AT artillery, mortar, AA, and tank units. However, because of the heterogeneous and inadequate supply of heavy weapons, little progress was made in combined-arms training in 1951. Nevertheless, field exercises of battalion level were observed outside military posts for the first time in the summer of 1951. Component elements of the VPDs rotated to summer training camps in accordance with the Soviet pattern.
10. In early 1952, the decisive phase in reorganization of the VPDs into a national army began. The following three stages of development prior to June were noted:

In January, the regiment-like VPDs were reorganized in order to establish the organizational framework for the formation of divisions. In March, a recruiting campaign was started to increase the personnel of the 24 regiment-like VPDs up to a strength adequate for cadre divisions. At first, this campaign was rather unsuccessful, but later it was more successful.

In May, the Soviets began to ship heavy weapons including artillery pieces, tanks and SP guns to East Germany to equip adequately the cadre divisions.

In this way, 24 cadre divisions with an average personnel strength of 3,000 men each were established prior to late June. At this time, each of these cadre divisions consisted of: 3 infantry cadre regiments, an artillery unit of 5 batteries; a tank and SP gun battalion of 3 companies; and special reconnaissance, signal, engineer and AA companies (Sonderabteilungen). Each of the 72 infantry regiments had an AT artillery and a mortar company. In late June 1952, the total number of tanks and SP guns available amounted to about 200. A total of about 36,000 men was recruited after March 1952 and prior to July. Thus, the total strength of all VPD units and schools increased from approximately 54,000 to 90,000 men.

11. In July, the NVA was redesignated NRVKVP. Simultaneously, the VPDs were redesignated KVPDs. This new nomenclature revealed the amount of progress achieved by the establishment of the Ministry of National Forces in mid-June.

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12. The method of uniformly equipping and bringing up to strength all 24 cadre divisions as observed prior to late June was later modified in favor of concentrating on some divisions by exploiting all means available. The operation is directed by the headquarters Armeegruppe Nord established in Pasewalk. The Prenzlau, Pasewalk, Ueckesin, Torgelow areas and the Prora area on Ruegen Island were established as quartering areas of the units concerned. By transferring personnel from almost all the cadre divisions in existence, the Armeegruppe Nord was brought to a total strength of about 50,000 men by late September. The arms and equipment required were delivered in August and September by the U.S.S.R. which furnished armored vehicles, artillery pieces, prime movers and also some motor vehicles, while most of the vehicles were furnished by the East German economy. At present, the Armeegruppe Nord consists of three full-strength divisions and army troops. Each of the three divisions in Prenzlau, Ueckesin and Prora is at present stronger than a Soviet mechanized division. It is therefore well possible that cadre personnel for the organization of additional units may be available from these three divisions. The organization and the training of the divisions mentioned are not complete, because the numerous heterogeneously composed contingents and the raw recruits had to construct winter quarters and, therefore, could not receive regular training. Several Bauunion firms have also been working on the troop quarters in order to complete the work before the beginning of winter. Therefore, it is expected that training will be intensified during the coming winter in order to make up for the loss of time. It is believed that several hundred Soviet instructors, who have been prepared for their missions in special courses and a sizeable portion of whom has already been attached to headquarters and units of Armeegruppe Nord, will supervise the carefully prepared schedule for a familiarization training course with new Soviet weapons in order that it will be completed by spring 1953.
13. As all efforts were centered on the activation of Armeegruppe Nord, prior to late September, the cadre divisions located in other areas of East Germany were considerably weakened. There are reasonable indications that these divisions are to be reinforced again and merged into larger units. After the spring of 1953, it must therefore be expected that two additional Armeegruppen will be organized in the central and southern sections of East Germany respectively.

#### Present Status.

14. The most important results of the development observed so far are as follows:
- a. At present, the military units of the KVP number approximately 100,000 to 110,000 armed men. Most of the new Soviet weapons including about 600 tanks and SP guns, 150 armored scout cars and personnel carriers and more than 1,300 artillery pieces and mortars were delivered to Armeegruppe Nord. As it was not possible to complete all of the construction projects for Armeegruppe Nord before the unusually early beginning of winter weather, numerous units of Armeegruppe Nord had to be moved in late October and early November, to vacant winter quarters. This movement occurred particularly in Saxony.

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- b. Preparations for establishing a comprehensive recruiting and replacement system are nearing completion. This organization has been completed up to the Kreis level, and it is expected that the present recruiting commissions may be converted to official Kreis draft boards at any time. By transferring the younger year classes from the VP to the KVP, the East German Government has found a way of bringing the KVP to full personnel strength without being obliged to institute universal military service. A general recruiting campaign for the KVP also continues. It is the aim of the East German authorities to assign as many trained soldiers with war experience as possible to the newly activated units of the KVP.
- c. The new uniforms and grade insignia introduced on 6 October 1952, a day before the military parade in Berlin, reveal the progressive sovietization and the military character of the KVP.
- d. The Ministry of National Forces consisted of 1,200 men in late September, and forms the central command headquarters.

#### Plans for the Future.

15. It is believed that in the winter of 1952/1953, the main effort will be centered on an intensive training of the full-strength units and the cadre divisions. By the summer of 1953, these full-strength divisions and army troops of Armeegruppe Nord may be considered as being capable of limited military operations. The expected formation of further Armeegruppen, which would necessitate the concentration of personnel and equipment in specific assembly areas after the pattern observed with Armeegruppe Nord, will probably require the deactivation of some of the original 24 cadre divisions. One of these, the KVPD in Quedlinburg, was deactivated in early September 1952. There are indications that other units in the area of the previous border of Saxony and Thuringia will be deactivated. The two cadre divisions in Leipzig have probably been merged into one single unit. It also appears that new units are being organized in other districts such as in the area south of Chemnitz. All these observations indicate that changes in the organization and distribution of KVP units will continue to occur until the National Army has been definitely established. On the assumption that the previously observed tempo in the organization of new KVP units will be continued and that the Soviets will go on supplying arms at the present rate, about three Armeegruppen and 9 to 12 full-strength divisions may be expected to be in existence by the fall of 1953. Whether universal military service will be proclaimed in East Germany in the fall of 1953 will not depend on personnel requirements but on political factors.

#### IV. Conclusion.

The progress made in the conversion of the KVP into a standing army represents the most important and conspicuous increase in the military potential which the satellite states achieved in 1952. This development proceeded at a speed greatly surpassing the progress of rearmament made by the satellite states during the period from 1946 to 1952. The full utilization by East German authorities of their pool of about 2.5 million men fit for military service, of whom about 1.2 millions belong to the 1918 through 1935 classes, will make it possible to maintain a military establishment of considerable strength and simultaneously to train reservists and to conduct an intensive pre-military training program in

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organizations expressly established for that purpose. Although none of the units of the KVP is ready for employment at present, 3 partially trained full-strength divisions will be available in the summer of 1953, and 6 to 9 more divisions will be being organized.

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